(ix) Lay byes and

(x) Wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors, etc.

Poor condition of National Highways in Maharashtra

1044. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Wiil the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of National Highways in Maharashtra is not satisfactory; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to bring the all National Highways of Maharashtra to satisfactory conditions and by which date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Highways in Maharashtra are maintained in traffickable condition within availability of fund. To improve their riding quality estimates amounting to about Rs. 104 crores have been sanctioned for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Creation of unified authority on road safety

1045. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly one lakh people are killed on Indian roads every year and another three lakh are injured or lose their limbs in road accidents;

(b) whether in order to improve the poor condition of the roads in the country, Government propose to set up a unified authority of road safety comprising various States and National Highways Authority of India; and

(c) whether the Ministry's Special Road Safety Cell has so far reviewed the conditions on road safety particularly the stretch between Jaipur and Dausa which is notorious for car crashes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available information, during the period 1991-1998, on an average about 63,000 persons lost their lives and about 2.95 lakhs were injured, annually due to road accidents.

(b) In the State Public Works Department (PWD) Ministers' Conference held on 12th June, 2000, at New Delhi, formation of a unified authority comprising of Highway Authority, State Police and Transport Departments, for highway patrolling and protection of highway assets, was discussed and was unanimously supported by all State Governments. It was decided to form a Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for the Ministry of Surface Transport, to look into this matter and make suitable recommendations.

(c) No, Sir. The existing condition of Jaipur and Dausa Section of National Highway No. 11 is good and it is not an accident prone zone.

Funds for Repair of National Highways

1046. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has cleared a proposal for designating another 30 roads in various States as National Highways, aggregating a length of 5,724 km. so that they can be speedily developed;

(b) if so, name of the States which will be benefited;

(c) whether Government have also set apart certain funds for repairs of National Highways which are in bad shape; and

(d) by when the goal to achieve a National Highway Grid of 100 km. density possible so that no part of the country is more than 50 kms. away from a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The proposal to declare certain state roads as National Highway is at initial stage and hence no details can be given.

(c) Yes, Sir. Efforts are made to maintain the entire National Highway network in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(d) Expansion of National Highway network is a continuous process and the goal to have a 100 km. grid of National Highway is